

## Seven Locks for Seven Locks: Or, How to Keep Your Plan Alive

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**V**isual aids can help enhance a presentation. At a recent meeting, County Council member **Howard A. Denis** (R-Potomac-Bethesda) proved that point.

The issue: the contentious Seven Locks Elementary replacement school saga, which has raged since Inspector General **Thomas Dagley** released an audit criticizing the school system's decision to build an elementary school on Kendale Road. A majority of the council as well as many Potomac area residents opposed the plan.

The setting: last week's County Council meeting, at which members rejected Superintendent Jerry D. Weast's request for \$3.3 million to complete the project.

To drive home the point that his plan — the so-called "Denis Amendment," calling for a larger Seven Locks school to be built on the current site — was the better alternative, Denis presented seven shiny silver padlocks.

Of the first, which he placed in front of him, he said simply: "community sentiment."

The second represented the inspector general's report.

By the third lock, Denis's lengthening remarks prompted council member **Steven A. Silverman** (D-At Large) to quip: "We're only on number three?"

At the end, Denis had seven tiny locks in front of his nameplate — but he also had the five votes he needed to ensure that his proposal would survive another day.

Asked afterward about his visual aids, Denis said, "I wanted to make it interesting."

### Raskin Reels In Big Names

**Jamin Raskin** is using his ties to national politicians to try to boost his campaign for the Mary-

land Senate in District 20.

U.S. Rep. **Jesse L. Jackson Jr.** (D-Ill.) is scheduled to join Raskin on Saturday for a town-hall-style meeting in Silver Spring.

Raskin is hoping to unseat state Sen. **Ida G. Ruben** (D), who faces her most serious challenger in years, in the district that includes Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

Raskin is a law professor at American University and has long been active in national Democratic politics.

Last week, another congressman — Rep. **John Conyers Jr.** (D-Mich.) — headlined an event for Raskin. Last month, several hundred people showed up at a Raskin rally that featured **Jim Hightower**, a well-known populist author and radio commentator.

**John Sarbanes**, son of U.S. Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Democratic candidate for Maryland's third congressional district, has also campaigned with Raskin.

Meanwhile, Ruben appears to be struggling to gin up similar big-name support.

Listed by *Washingtonian* magazine this year as one of the city's 100 most powerful women, Ru-

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